



Wednesday, September 21st, 2005

“OUTREACH PLUS” ANNOUNCED BY COURT OF APPEAL, FOURTH APPELLATE DISTRICT, DIVISION TWO, AT INYO COUNTY’S BISHOP UNION HIGH SCHOOL

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Riverside—Presiding Justice Manuel A. Ramirez has announced that an “Outreach Plus” will take place in Inyo County on Thursday, September 29, 2005. “Outreach Plus” is an innovative court-community outreach program by this court’s appellate justices. The program responds to the emphasis on court and community collaboration by the Chief Justice of California, Ronald M. George. The seven justices of the Court of Appeal for the Fourth Appellate District, Division Two, will hear oral arguments at Bishop Union High School in Bishop before an audience of seniors and selected students from high schools throughout Inyo County. After oral argument, the justices will visit classrooms with Inyo County judges and Inyo County Bar Association lawyers. The justices, judges, and lawyers will talk to the students about the California appellate courts, legal careers, and staying in school. The program will reach about 900 to 1,200 high school students from all over Inyo County. The public has been invited to attend the special oral argument proceedings.

Arrangements to hold the “Outreach Plus” in Inyo county resulted from the collaboration of the Court of Appeal, Inyo Superior Court Judges Dean Stout and Brian Lamb; Steve Place, President of the Inyo County Bar Association, and Maggie Kingsbury, Principal of Bishop Union High School, with the encouragement and support of Mark Geyer, Bishop Joint Union High School District Superintendent. We also thank Jennifer A. Gambale and Lynelle K. Hee, counsel for the appellants, and Scott C. Taylor, Deputy Attorney General, for the People, for making the long drive to Bishop to represent their clients at oral argument and participate in the question-and-answer session.

Holding “Outreach Plus” in Inyo County will be a historic first. For approximately 70 years, from 1929 until 1999, the Court of Appeal heard oral argument at its headquarters in San Bernardino, and since then has been headquartered in Riverside. This will be the first time that the Court of Appeal has conducted oral argument in Inyo County. Moreover, the classroom visits are a recent, unique innovation designed to acquaint students with the appellate court system, inspire students to consider a career in the law, and encourage students to stay in school. In the past the Court of Appeal has held oral argument at Riverside and San Bernardino County high schools, but the justices have not gone into the classrooms until last year. This added feature is the reason the program is called “Outreach Plus.”

Oral arguments will occur at 9:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. and will be followed by a 20-minute question-and-answer session conducted by the justices and counsel. The oral arguments concern two real criminal appeals. In *People v. Kakish* a jury convicted appellant of attempted voluntary manslaughter, torture, and mayhem; on appeal he contends that the trial court incorrectly instructed the jury about voluntary manslaughter and that the jury had insufficient evidence that he intended to torture or disfigure the victim. In *People v. Gore* the jury convicted appellant of first degree murder; on appeal he contends that his incriminating statements were obtained after arresting him without probable cause.

After oral argument and the question-and-answer session, justices and appellate court staff will be matched with Inyo County Superior Court judges and County Bar Association lawyers to go into 12th-grade and other selected classes to interactively discuss with the students the importance of a high school and college education. The school administration, court, and bar hope that "Outreach Plus" will provide a model for similar programs statewide.

That evening the presiding and associate justices will join with the superior court judges and their staff and Steven Place, President of the Inyo County Bar Association and its members to celebrate the career of retiring Associate Justice James D. Ward.

For more information, call Henry Espinoza, Assistant Clerk/Administrator, at 951-248-0200.

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